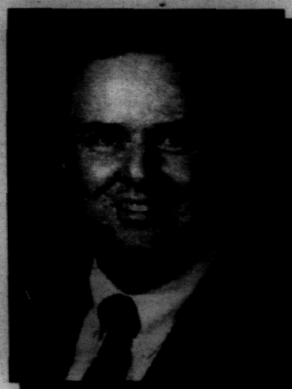
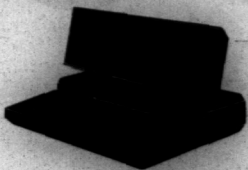


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The right to a dead baby

You may find this hard to believe. After a rather rancorous debate last week on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, supporters were able to push through the Born-alive Infants Protection Act (HR 4292). If the bill is also passed by the U.S. Senate and signed by the President, it would establish in federal law the concept that a human being living anywhere outside its mother's womb is legally a person.

Now, for people like you and me who are not considered to be among the intellectual and political elite in this country, that may seem like a common-sense notion established more than 200 years ago in the U.S. Constitution — but you would be wrong.

You would be wrong because in America today, someone accidentally born alive during the gruesome process of abortion is not considered a person at all. At best, he/she is considered nothing more than medical waste.

Don't believe it? Consider the sworn testimony of two nurses who appeared before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee in July. Both nurses testified that they had witnessed the willful neglect of fully-formed babies born alive during late-term abortions, in order that

the babies would not survive.

Registered Nurse Jill Stanek testified that one aborted baby survived nearly eight hours without medical care before expiring. Other testimony in other venues over the years has established that full-term babies accidentally born alive during abortions in the U.S. are routinely drowned in water-filled trays or simply have their tiny skulls crushed flat by the brute strength of the abortionist.

Fawning reports in the national news media to the contrary, abortion is not the clean, simple, out-patient procedure that its supporters would have us believe.

People are often born alive during the process of trying to kill them before their life begins.

That's no problem, according to a July ruling by a three-judge panel of the Third U.S. Court of Appeals that struck down New Jersey's ban on partial-birth abortion. After wading through sanctimonious legalese, the judges effectively ruled that there is no such thing as partial-birth, because a woman having an abortion is not seeking to give birth.

Huh?

Such Orwellian double-talk led Newsweek columnist George Will to ask, in the October 2 issue of the magazine, if the strange "born" versus "unborn" concept of human life, established by the framework of the unctuous 1973 Roe V. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the U.S., has somehow given way to a new consumer right that a person who purchases an abortion is entitled to a dead baby no matter what — a satisfied customer, as it were.

Will goes on to describe the case of a Maryland teen recently convicted of attempted first degree murder for trying to kill her newborn baby after giving birth alone in a bathtub.

"Considering that partial-birth abortion is a constitutional right, ...the teenager will be forgiven for wondering what, exactly, she did that was so wrong."

Precisely. What, pray tell, is the difference between that for which an affluent adult can pay to have accomplished in a

THIS BABY CAN'T CHOOSE... SO I CHOOSE TO LET THE CHILD LIVE

PRO-LIFE

THE LORD HATES... HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD.

— PROV. 6:16,17

(LOVING FORGIVENESS IS AVAILABLE — PSA 86:5; ISA 1:18; EPH 4:32; 1 JN 1:7-9)

- Revolutionary War.....25,324 killed
- Civil War..... 498,332 killed
- World War I..... 116,708 killed
- World War II..... 407,316 killed
- Korean War.....54,246 killed
- Vietnam War.....58,655 killed
- War on the Unborn.....39,000,000 killed

(since abortion was legalized in 1973)

sterile clinic, and that which a teenager decides to do on her own? Nothing, apparently, except for a few decades in the penitentiary for the teenager.

That is the sickening state of American justice, and American society.

Even in Mississippi, where people take pride in living in the "Buckle of the Bible Belt," the state Supreme Court ruled a few years ago that an unfettered right to abortion can be found in the Mississippi Constitution.

It seems that even in our beloved state, there is an established right to a dead baby. If that doesn't drive you to your knees before Almighty God, what will?

Working preachers! That's what we called bivocational pastors when I was growing up in Franklin County. Depending on the motive of the person making the statement, it can be either a compliment or criticism.

October 15 is Bivocational Ministers Appreciation Day across the Southern Baptist Convention. This celebration includes bivocational ministers in the music, youth, and education ministries, as well as bivocational pastors.

Allow me to challenge you to grow in appreciation of bivo (an acceptable abbreviation) ministers. Did you know:

- nearly 40% of our Mississippi Baptist pastors are bivo? Many more "full-time" pastors in the state would be bivo, if not for the additional income brought in by their wives' employment.

- many smaller membership churches would close their doors, if not for bivocs? They simply couldn't afford to fund a full-time pastor.

- bivocs, when combined with the ministries of college/seminary students and volunteers, fill nearly 80% of staff positions (music, youth, education, etc.) in Mississippi?

- bivo ministry is biblical and

GUEST OPINION:



Working preachers!

By Matt Buckles, director

Church Adm./Pastoral Ministries

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

practical? The Apostle Paul was a tent-making bivo missionary — not a financial burden to the churches. Bivocationalism is not second-class ministry.

- "bubble churches" experience the most difficulty with salary and benefits? These churches are neither fully-supported or bivocational. Their in-between size causes great difficulty for the minister and his family.

Some of those churches should become bivocational, and others fully-supported. Regardless of a church's decision in this regard, however, the Kingdom is not going to fall.

- in our state, bivocs are business owners, attorneys, school educators, corporate officers, bankers, managers, public servants, etc.? These gifted and highly competent men are often intentionally bivocational.

- the Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministries seeks ways to support bivo ministry? We are producing The Bivocational Primer, which will soon be ready for publication.

The council also responds to requests for conference leadership, pulpit supply, and resources.

- we need more bivocs to start new churches, support struggling ministries, and increase the Christian witness in America's marketplace? Our mission is not to get every church full-time, but to strengthen various ministry methods and all churches.

What can you do to help these twice-blessed ministers?

You can ask bivo ministers how you can pray specifically for them. Encourage them with cards, calls, meals, gifts, special favors, time off, retreats, etc.

Recognize their faithful ministry with a special event at your church. A helpful brochure entitled Pastor-Staff Recognition is available at no cost from the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department (CAPM) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Invite a bivo, your director of missions, or an MBCB employee to your church to speak about this special double-duty ministry.

Show appreciation to the minister's family with appropriate gifts and support. Analyze your church's salary and benefits; discuss the subject in truth and love.

Don't allow misguided ideas by some church members to be a hindrance to the minister, his family, and the church.

Talk with a bivo to learn more about his double-duty, twice-blessed ministry. Pray that God will give you a better understanding of all ministry methods.

Please join us in saluting and supporting our double-duty ministers.

For more information, Buckles can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3308 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 308. E-mail: mbuckles@mbcb.org

WMU products help artisans, missionaries

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Kathie Lee Gifford came under fire because it was said some of her clothing line was produced under questionable circumstances.

Human rights issues abound in most any discussion of China. Yet, the government of the United States chooses to grant the country "normal trade relations" status.

The problems and concerns of contracting with Third World entities to produce goods often come into the spotlight, but it seems little is done to make sure the workers are paid fairly and not enslaved.

There are denominations and organizations in the U.S., however, that are marketing these products in a special way and, more importantly, are diligently trying to make sure the craftspeople receive a livable income from their work.

One such group is the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Through its WorldCrafts product line, the national WMU sells home decor and accessories, gift and baby items, jewelry, baskets, candles, and Christmas decorations, among other things.

Karen Flowers, WorldCrafts project manager, said the endeavor began in 1995, the idea of WMU's then-executive director, Dellanna O'Brien. It is a way to offer Third World artisans an opportunity to receive fair prices for their handicrafts.

WMU already sold various other products, so the computer

system and warehouse needed for WorldCrafts were in place, Flowers explained.

Then, by working through missionaries on the field who

In some cases, it gives the missionaries a "business" reason for being in a country where they wouldn't be welcome otherwise.

When the artisans go to a certain location to pick up supplies for making the items or to drop off the finished products, they may get to be involved in Bible studies. "Some," noted Flowers, "have become Christians through this ministry."

In several countries, the artisans are offered medical clinics, literacy courses, and self-improvement classes, such as nutrition and hygiene, she said.

WorldCrafts "doesn't solicit any crafts," Flowers noted. Instead, missionaries on the field encounter the artisans and contact WorldCrafts. Most of the missionaries are Southern Baptist, but a few are evangelical missionaries recommended to WorldCrafts by Southern Baptist missions personnel.

WorldCrafts works with missionaries in the various countries to find out what a fair price is for a certain product in that particular land.

"[The artisans] are paid for all their labor and items up front, whenever we receive them," Flowers said. Unsold items are never returned.

For WMU, the financial goal of WorldCrafts is to run as a cost-recovery operation so as not to be subsidized by WMU. Anything above cost recovery would go back into the project, she explained. Since 1995, the sales volume has grown from \$7,000 to \$100,000 annually.

WMU's primary way of marketing WorldCrafts is through home parties.

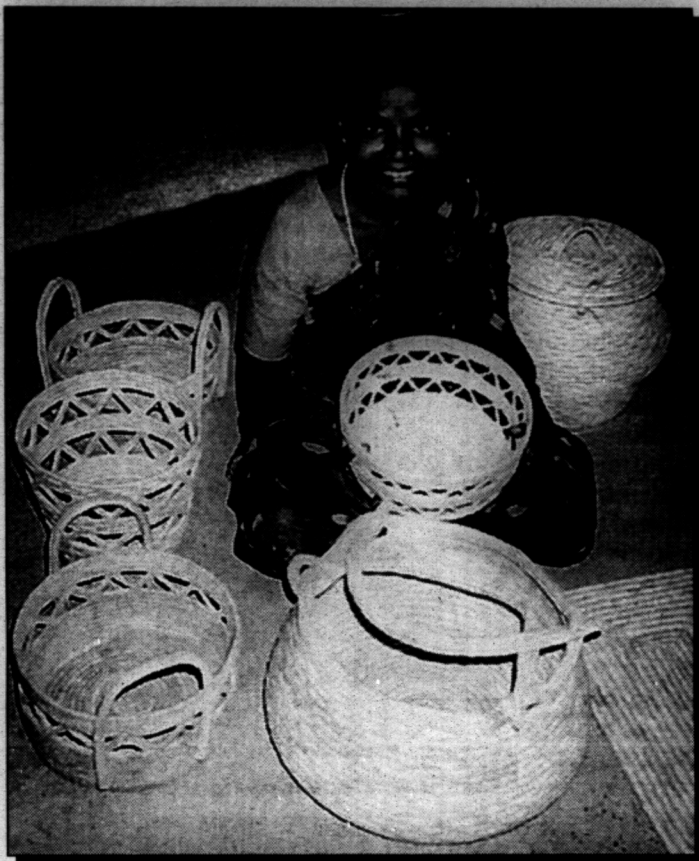
So as not to overwhelm the craftspeople with orders, WorldCrafts began the home party concept on a small scale. The parties mainly have been held in Alabama and Kentucky, Flowers said.

During each of the last three years, there have been about 100 parties in Alabama, but this year it becomes a nationwide endeavor, she said, adding that she anticipates having to limit the number of parties due to the high demand.

The buyers, during the parties at which the items are sold, learn about other countries, taste new foods, and feel good about helping artisans who either wouldn't have a market or would receive little for their work otherwise.

Flowers also said the parties and products get the buyers excited about missions. A party in Kentucky actually helped to revitalize a WMU group.

Girls in Action (GAs) get in on the enthusiasm too. The GAs at First Church, Troy, Ala., have a party and fashion show once a year as part of its WorldVentures, the individual achievement plan for GAs.



WORLD CRAFTS — Baskets made in Bangladesh are sold through national Woman's Missionary Union's WorldCrafts, a ministry offering Third World artisans a fair price for the sale of their work.

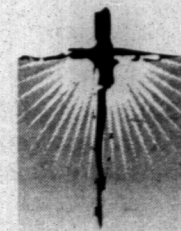
come in contact with these artisans, the product line developed. New artisans and countries have been added with each subsequent catalog, Flowers said.

The latest catalog, released Sept. 1, features 17 countries and territories, the new ones being Kenya, Turkey, Guyana, the West Bank, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, she added.

Most of the craftspeople featured in the catalog aren't Christians, Flowers went on to explain. But the WorldCrafts effort does give missionaries working with the artisans the opportunity to minister to them.

Tornadoes rip churches

XENIA, Ohio (BP) — Two tornadoes tore through a small town in Ohio Sept. 20, killing one person and injuring 145 others, including members of two Southern Baptist churches. One twister struck Xenia, Ohio, about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, leaving a two-mile path of destroyed buildings, flipped cars, and ripped-down power lines. One person died when a tree crushed a car near the Greene County fairgrounds, Sheriff Jerry Erwin told ABC News. The twister also destroyed Dayton Avenue Church and Arrowbrook Church. Keith Jordan, director of church development in nearby Dayton, Ohio, told Baptist Press both sanctuaries were destroyed and the entire roof of Dayton Avenue was blown away. A spokesperson for Miami Valley Hospital said it treated 15 people for injuries including broken bones, head injuries, and cuts from flying debris. One woman was reported in critical condition. Greene Memorial Hospital in Xenia said it treated 100 people. Six people have been admitted. At Dayton Avenue Church, Ruby Godfrey told Associated Press that worshippers dove under pews when the storm hit. "You heard the roar," Godfrey said. "You saw the roof flying off and then it was gone." At least one person was seriously injured at Dayton Avenue. There was no word on his condition at press time. The second tornado left about a dozen homes damaged or destroyed when it hit Harlem Township, Ohio, around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday. Ohio Gov. Bob Taft declared a state of emergency in the area.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

Record THE BAPTIST

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 5, 2000

VOL. 124

No. 34

Betsy Gates, who works with GAs at the church, said the response always is positive. "The ladies enjoy ordering things from different countries."

Melissa Bowen of Prattville, Ala., has hosted two parties and plans to have a third one in the fall. She likes to host the events for her Women on Mission group at First Church, Prattville.

She also gives WorldCrafts items as Christmas gifts and includes a note explaining a little about the countries from which they came. She sees this fair trade concept as "a way to participate in ministering and assist the people who make WorldCrafts."

For more information on holding a WorldCrafts party or to request a catalog, call WMU Customer Service at (800) 968-7301 or email Flowers at worldcrafts@wmu.org.

The products also may be viewed and purchased by visiting www.wmystore.com

Looking back

10 years ago

Chester Swor, 83, noted international Christian speaker and a mainstay of the student ministry movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, dies of cardiac arrest at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He once estimated he traveled 1,000,000 miles in his life to spread the Gospel.

20 years ago

The Woman's Missionary Union of Wayne Association, Waynesville, reaches its goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of food for the Indian ministry in Pascagoula, pastored by Native American Cloyd Harjo. Clarke Association in Quitman joins in to donate a large amount of clothing to the ministry.

50 years ago

Southern Baptist missionary Minnie Landrum of Clinton, on furlough from her mission work in the South American country of Brazil, presents First Church, Clinton, with an elaborate communion table linen tablecloth which was lovingly hand-woven by a group of Brazilian women.

Schedule of the 165th Annual Session of the
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION
 Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2000 • First Church, Jackson

OCTOBER 31, 2000

TUESDAY MORNING • FIRST SESSION

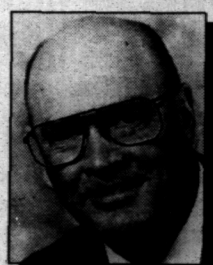
8:25	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, First Church, Jackson
8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Kermit McGregor
8:35	Congregational and Choral Praise	George Puckett
8:50	Scripture Reading:	Rex Ard
	<i>Exodus 3:1-14</i>	
	Prayer	Joe Young
9:00	Organization of the Convention	
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	Kermit McGregor
	Recognition of Special Guests & Correspondence	Kermit McGregor
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	Tommy Sparkman
	Recognition of Tellers and Credentials Committee	Kermit McGregor
	Welcome	First Church, Jackson
9:10	Bible Treasure:	David Dockery
	<i>"God of All Comfort" - 2 Corinthians 1:3-11</i>	
9:30	Report of Committee on Committees	Gene Henderson
9:35	Presentation of Resolutions	
9:45	Congregational Praise	George Puckett
9:50	Testimony	Charlie Cooper
10:00	Convention Board Report	Gary Richardson
10:10	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, First Church, Mendenhall
10:15	Message:	Fermin Whittaker
	<i>"It's Harvest Time" - Matthew 9:35-38</i>	
10:40	Election of President	William P. Smith, III
11:00	Praise and Worship	Sanctuary Choir, First Church, Mendenhall
11:05	President's Address	Kermit McGregor
	<i>"Priesthood of the Believer" - 1 Peter 2</i>	
11:35	Benediction	Don Windham



Dockery



J. Futral



McGregor



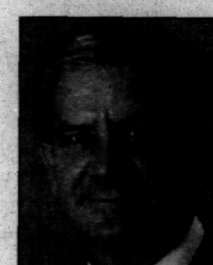
Called

Commissioned

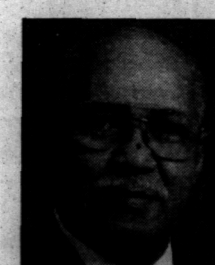
Compensated



McGregor



Richardson



Whittaker

OCTOBER 31, 2000

TUESDAY AFTERNOON • SECOND SESSION

1:30	Choral Praise	Jackson Associational Choir
1:40	Sounding of the Gavel	William P. Smith, III
	Congregational Praise	Larry Futral
	Scripture Reading:	Robert Sones
	<i>Matthew 4:17-22 and Luke 10:1-11</i>	
	Prayer	Rossie Francis
1:50	Results of Election of President	William P. Smith, III
	<i>(Followed by second ballot if needed)</i>	
1:55	Testimony	Jack H. Gregory, Jr.
2:05	Bible Treasure:	David Dockery
	<i>"God of All Grace" - Ephesians 2:1-10</i>	
2:25	Business Session	Kermit McGregor
	Presentation of 2001 Budget	Gary Richardson
	Election of Convention Officers	Kermit McGregor
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Miscellaneous Business	Kermit McGregor
2:55	Choral Praise	Jackson Associational Choir
3:00	Baptist Children's Village Report	Ronny Robinson
3:10	Business Session	Kermit McGregor
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:45	Congregational Praise	Larry Futral
3:50	Report of Board of Ministerial Education	James Hurt, Jr.
3:55	Choral Praise	Jackson Associational Choir
4:10	Convention Sermon	Ernest Sadler
	<i>"Is That Your Final Answer?" - Jeremiah 42:1-10</i>	
4:40	Benediction	Stanley Magill

NOVEMBER 1, 2000

WEDNESDAY MORNING • FOURTH SESSION

8:25	Choral Praise	Blue Mountain College Chorale
8:35	Sounding of the Gavel	Dale Holloway
8:40	Choral Praise	Blue Mountain College Chorale
8:50	Scripture Reading:	Andy May
	<i>2 Timothy 4:1-8</i>	
	Prayer	Rusty Bowlin
9:00	Bible Treasure:	David Dockery
	<i>"God, Worthy of All Praise" - Hebrews 13:15-16</i>	
9:20	Memorial Service	Louis Smith
9:30	Report of Christian Education	Roland Q. Leavell, II
9:35	Choral Praise	Blue Mountain College Chorale
9:40	Introduction of College Presidents	Kermit McGregor
	Report from Blue Mountain College	E. Harold Fisher
9:45	Business Session	Kermit McGregor
	Adoption of 2001 Budget	Gary Richardson
	Report of Committee on Nominations	Bill Duncan
	Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report	Tommy King
	Resolutions Committee Report	Russell Bush
	Miscellaneous Business	
10:35	Congregational Praise	Larry Newell
10:40	Testimony	Levon Moore
10:50	Choral Praise	Blue Mountain College Chorale
10:55	Message:	Richard Jackson
	<i>"Sounds of Glory" - Revelation 21:1-7</i>	
11:25	Benediction	Kevin Neary

Source: Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer, MBCB

Clarion (601) 969-2141
 400 Greyhound Avenue

\$79 single
 \$69 double

Edison-Walshall (601) 948-5161
 225 E. Capitol

\$69 single
 \$79 double

Hampton Inn (601) 452-1700
 120 Greyhound Avenue

\$69 single/double
 \$85 suite

Holiday Inn Express (601) 948-4466
 110 Greyhound Street

\$69.95 two king beds
 continental breakfast buffet

Microtel Inn (601) 452-8282
 614 Monroe Street

\$60 double
 \$65 suite
 complimentary breakfast

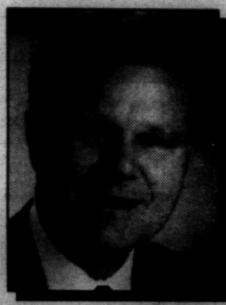
Red Roof Inn Coliseum (601) 969-5000
 E. Capitol High Street

\$44.99 single
 \$46.99 double
 \$61.99 business king

A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH?

The Bible says an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but not in this restaurant! A while back I went to lunch with two friends and as we entered the restaurant we noticed a man and his wife standing, studying a sign on the wall. I nodded at them, looked at the sign, and along with them began studying the document. The sign was declaring that this restaurant was not liable if you broke your tooth, or cracked your dentures, or ruined any other dental appliances. It furthermore declared that they were not responsible if you left your dentures wrapped up in a napkin or lying on the table!

This was a serious, legal document. While I began reading it with a big grin on my face, I ended up reading it with a far more serious disposition. I first of all wondered what had happened that would cause them to put up such a disclaimer. I wondered if some dear fellow had eaten his supper, gotten a bowl of ice cream, removed his dentures 'cause he didn't need to chew, and then walked out and forgot his teeth! Maybe forty-five minutes after he left he discovered he didn't have his teeth, or maybe it was at his next meal when he sat down to eat that he wondered, "Where did my teeth go? Oh, I remember! I left them in the napkin over at the restaurant." He then proceeds to check with the restaurant only to find that his teeth are gone



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

— possibly in the washer, maybe in the dumpster — who knows? "Well," he says, "you folks are going to have to replace them!" "Oh no we aren't — you are responsible for your own teeth!" "Well," the fellow says, "possibly, but my attorney will be in touch with you." The result — the restaurant probably paid for the teeth and then they paid for a sign that said, "We ain't paying for no more!"

I began to get a little more serious when I came to the part of the document that said, "We are not going to pay if you break a tooth or crack your 'whatever.'" I wondered what kind of food they were serving there anyway. Were there stones in the soup, or sticks in the green beans? I just wondered what kind of potatoes would break your teeth, or bread that could be so hard it would crack your dentures? The Bible may say a tooth for a tooth, but if you lose one in this restaurant — you are definitely on your own!

As you might imagine, during the meal

we talked and laughed about the sign, but in time I began to think about the importance of that document. Basically what it was saying was that a person bears personal responsibility for his own actions. What a revolutionary thought in our world — you do wrong, you bear the consequences! You bite down on a chicken leg too hard and break your tooth, that is your personal prerogative and your personal liability.

While I had never seen a sign like that before, I can see the lack of personal responsibility everywhere in society! Spouses blame their marital troubles on each other. Children blame their lack of learning on bad teachers rather than their poor study habits. Parents point fingers at every sector of society for their non-productive children rather than telling them to shape up and get busy. Criminals whine about the judicial system rather than obey the law. Workers spend more time talking about the unfairness of the workplace than they do about taking care of business.

I actually had a person call, after ten years of marriage, and threaten to take action against me because I did not force their spouse to live up to their marriage vows! My suggestion to that person is, "Do not eat in the restaurant that I did, or be sure you read the sign before you chomp down on a chicken leg!"

Missionary family ambushed on Ugandan road

KARAMOJA, Uganda (BP) — A Southern Baptist missionary family in Uganda escaped death Sept. 9 after bandits pumped bullets into their car during an ambush attempt.

Larry and Terry Singletary, International Mission Board missionaries from Tomball, Texas, were driving with their children outside Karamoja, Uganda. Andy, 19, and Jackie, 15, were in the back seat singing "God is good, all the time!" with their parents when a tribal warrior stepped from

the tall grass alongside the road. He quickly retreated into the grass, then reappeared, aiming an AK-47 automatic weapon at the car. Another armed man appeared on the other side of the road.

"I knew we were in an ambush," Terry Singletary said.

The warrior began firing in front of the missionaries' car. Singletary jammed the gearshift into reverse and swung the car around as his family ducked between the seats. Three bullets pierced the

car and entered the vehicle.

"One went in through the roof and hit between Jackie and Andy in the back seats," Terry Singletary said. "One shattered the window on Andy's side. We're not sure about the other." A piece of shrapnel hit Jackie's back, but Terry Singletary said the wound was not serious.

The family sped away for five minutes before a tire blew out. "With fear and trembling we stopped and changed the tire," she said.

The family used their two-

way radio to contact a missionary on the other side of Kenya. Within minutes, every missionary who had a radio was listening to the Singletarys' story and praying.

Soon after, another tire blew out. With no more spare tires or water, the family worried about when another vehicle might venture their way to help. Eventually, a small truck approached, but when the driver saw the stranded car he backed up and turned around. The family screamed for help, so the driver reluctantly stopped.

The driver took Terry Singletary and the children to a nearby town where they had one of the flat tires repaired while Larry Singletary stayed with the car.

Once the tire was fixed, they drove home. Another tire blew out just as they pulled into the driveway.

"We are in the middle of a battle for the heart and soul of this people," Terry Singletary said of the incident — and of the Karamojong people they are striving to reach with the gospel.

"The (devil) is throwing a hissy fit. We all agree that the experience we went through is the reason we are here," she said.

Church gives \$10,000 to Boy Scouts

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (BP) — A vote by city commissioners in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., against giving the Boy Scouts \$4,167 to help disabled and disadvantaged children was offset by a Baptist church's show of support Sept. 11.

Hundreds of Christians rallied on behalf of the Scouts when city commissioners, after a five-hour hearing, voted against the grant to Learning for Life, an in-school Scouts program for students in high crime areas.

Larry Thompson, pastor of Fort Lauderdale's First Church, was met with cheers when he handed the commission a check for \$10,200 — \$200 above the Scouts' original request, the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel reported.

The church's gift was raised in donations of no more than \$100 each by members of the Southern Baptist congregation, Thompson said.

Banners at the rally read "Save Our Scouts" and "Keep Your Hands Off Our Scouts." Several pro-homosexual protesters in the crowd booed the pro-Scouts speakers.

Jones Association shows innovation in Gulfshore Assembly conference

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

It's hard enough to get church leaders to attend any training conference, so it's a significant coup when one association can plan and execute a training event over 100 miles away from here and bring 194 participants.

The Jones Association, Laurel, held a Growing Churches Conference at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian September 22-23. The conference was planned by the associational leadership under the direction of Allan Nix, director of missions.

A total of 25 of the 49 churches in the association were represented. Some churches sent only the pastor and his wife; others brought 20 or more.

The conference was facilitated by personnel secured by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Thirty-six different individual conferences were offered, in addition to large-group sessions and worship experiences.

Nix was asked what made this conference so successful.

"There's no bad time to develop effective leadership," Nix said. "When we can sponsor a conference that rivals some state conferences in participation, that's not too bad."

Nix identified several factors:

"First, there's the novelty and newness of this type of format. We'd just never attempted anything like this before.

"Second, the association budgeted for this event last year. We picked up \$20 of the \$44 conference cost per participant. We kicked in a little less than half the cost of the event." He smiled. "Of course, we're just putting associational money back into our own project.

"I'd also credit the variety of conferences offered, and the setting was a plus — over half of our folks had never been to Gulfshore."

Could other associations host similar conferences on their own?

"It worked well in our context," Nix said. "It might not work for everyone, but I could see where two or more sister associations could partner together to do something like this."

Nix felt that with the prospect of a new industrial park being built in the Laurel area the churches needed to be prepared for the growth that would come to the communities. "Local church leaders should catch a vision to do leadership training on a more localized scale," he stated.

Nix was asked if Jones Association would attempt anything of this magnitude again anytime soon. "The sequel is seldom as good as the original," he noted.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Acteens and GAs of Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale

Acteen/GA Recognition Ceremony was held at Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale, on May 24.

Acteens in grades eight and nine pictured (back row, from left) are Lauren Nimon, Hope Griffin, Brandy Borden, Brandi Wilson, Amanda Welch, and Amanda Cauthen. Front row, from left, is Kathy Compton, grade seven, who completed World Ventures 6 and Mission

Quest with a Quest for Confidence. GAs in grades three through six are Shaina Badon, Tiffany Borden, Kayla Wilson, Karon Dunnam, and Haleigh Wroten. Teachers for Acteens are Regena Compton and Linda Williams. Teachers for senior GAs are Mary Jo Calcote and Pam Spring. Teachers for junior GAs are Jane Soesbe and Lisa Dunnam.



Ground breaking services were held Sept. 3 at Clifton Church, Forest, for a new church. Taking part in the service were the planning committee, building committee, and the decoration committee. Pictured (from left, front row) are Tim Smith; Bobby Kirby; Patsy Thompson; Marshall Lum, pastor; Betty Pope; W.T. Harrell; and Craig Harrell; (back row) Hulon Smith; James Crain; Abe Morris; Louise Bell; Dianne Morris; Alice Harrell; Joann Gatewood; Rose Benton; and Janice Noel.

812 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

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For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-353-2400 or 1-800-442-0290.

WA Wellington Associates, Inc.

Woodville Church, Woodville, will celebrate 200 years on Oct. 14 and 15. An Open House will be held at the Wilkinson County Museum, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; celebration service, 10:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; and celebration pageant following lunch. Guest speakers will include Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and previous pastors. Special music will be provided by Bennie Still. Ginger Truelove of Centreville will serve as guest organist.

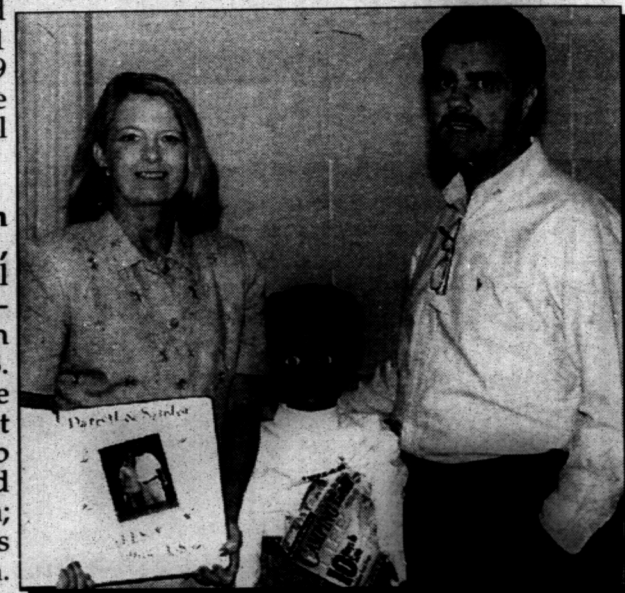
Judgement House the Choice: Heaven or Hell will be held at Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto, Oct. 20-29. The times are Fridays and Saturdays, 6-11 p.m.; Sunday, 5-9 p.m. For more information, call (601) 833-4144.

Rehobeth Church, Pelahatchie, will celebrate old fashioned day on Sunday, Oct. 8. Activities include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; and Travelers Quartet at 1 p.m. Jim Ray is pastor of Rehobeth

Church and Dennis Ellingburg is minister of music and youth.

Carla Jo Carr, a MorningStar recording artist from Riceville, Tenn., will be in concert at South McComb Church, McComb, on Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. Ted C. Bowlin is pastor of South McComb Church. For more information about Carr, visit her website at www.carlajocarr.com.

Darrell and Sandra Logan and his ventriloquist doll, Thad, pictured during a fellowship held at First Church, Bruce, were honored for their service during his term as interim youth and children's director from April 1999 to June 2000. They recently took a mission trip to Mexico.



The Logans and "Thad"

Announcing the publication of:

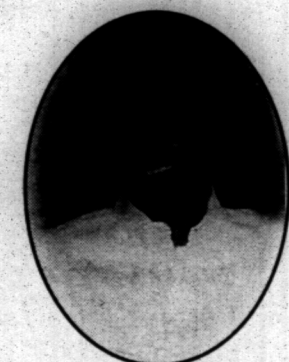
It's a God Thing

Mississippi author and Christian speaker, is now a nationally published author. In a pre-distribution offer to help one of four Mississippi ministries, the book

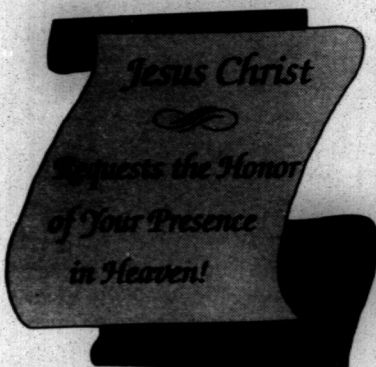
It's a God Thing can be previewed and ordered at:

www.Godthing.net

Special thanks to
CSS Publishing
It's a God Thing
ISBN 0-7880-1161-X



Royce



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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 5, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

2001 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra

AUDITION

October 2000 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Thursday, 19th	4-8 p.m.	First Baptist Church, Brookhaven
Saturday, 21st	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Thomas Fine Arts Building, William Carey College, Hattiesburg

November 2000 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Thursday, 2nd	4-8 p.m.	Fairview BC, Columbus
Saturday, 4th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	North Oxford BC, Oxford
Saturday, 11th	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	North Greenwood BC, Greenwood
Thursday, 16th	4-8 p.m.	First Baptist Church, Meridian
Saturday, 18th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Aven Hall Mississippi College, Clinton

Notice!!!
Fewer locations, but
longer hours than last
year!

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece
- Scales
- Sight reading
- Technique and tune

Register through the Church Music Department two weeks prior to audition.

Call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266 or 292-3266 for more information.

Visit our website at www.mbc.org/cm/allstate for a registration form. Youth must be 9th - 12th graders to audition.

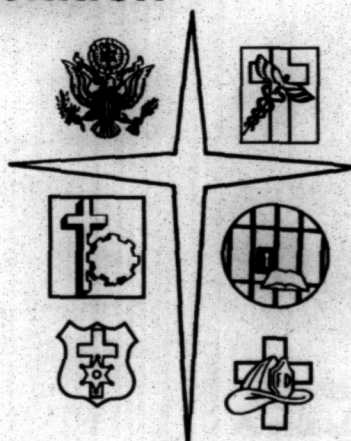
Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Annual Fall Banquet

October 31, 2000

4:45 p.m.

Skyroom, Baptist Building, Jackson

Speaker: Dave Mullis, Chaplaincy Associate, Military,
North American Mission Board



All chaplains, volunteers and career, are invited to join us for good food, fellowship, and an update on chaplaincy on a national level.

The banquet is no cost for chaplains who have paid their dues to the Chaplains' Association for 2000-2001.

For non-members the cost is \$8.50 per person.

For more information, call Don Q. Wilson at 601-292-3361 or 1-800-748-1651 or Reid Whittington at 601-481-1209.

Please make your reservations by October 24.

Reservation Form for Chaplains' Association Annual Fall Banquet

October 31, 2000, 4:45 p.m.
Baptist Building, Jackson

Please send _____ tickets @ \$8.50 each.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to MBCB and mail to :
Strategic Initiatives Department
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205-0530.

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9 am - noon

FBC, Jackson

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(Early registration deadline: Oct. 9)

Regular registration - \$38

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November 10-11, 2000

Friday, 5:30 p.m. - Saturday, 2:00 p.m.

**MissionsQuest, Acteens Activators, CrossWalk,
Music, Missionary Moments, and MORE!**

Church/Association _____

Contact Person _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of people x \$27.50 per person = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention
Board (MBCB). Send registration form and check to:

WMU Department

PO Box 530

Jackson MS 39205-0530

Registration deadline is October 27, 2000.

If space is still available after the registration
deadline, reservations will be received
at the cost of \$32.50 per person.

2000 MISSISSIPPI YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

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Difference**



Gary Permenter
Speaker



Ken Smith
Speaker



Kevin Williams
Praise and Worship



Matt Fore
Christian Comedian

Women Reaching Women Retreat

**Central Hills
Baptist Retreat
October 20-21
Kosciusko**

**Emphasis: "Make Known the Mystery
Throughout Mississippi"**

Breakout session choices:

- **Titus 2 Women** - the great Mentoring Match-up
- **HeartCall** - Women sharing God's Heart (Bring a woman with you who needs Jesus and/or bring the one who knows Jesus because you led her to the Lord.)
- **The Virtuous Woman** - bring collegiate and young women with you!
- **Mission Opportunities in Mississippi** - all kinds of ways to be involved locally and globally
- **The Financially Confident Woman** - great \$\$\$\$ helps!
- **My Prayer Life** - practical information from a practicing prayer warrior

REGISTRATION (DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 13)

Church _____ Association _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of Women _____ x \$40 = Total enclosed \$ _____

(Please attach a sheet with the names of the women)

Cost: \$40 (lodging, 3 meals and registration) (make check to MBCB).

**Mail to: WMU, Women Reaching Women Retreat, PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205**

for more info: 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800

Youth Ministers Workshop 2000

Lake Tiak O'Khata

Louisville

November 13-15



Finances

The charge for lodging and meals is the only cost for this conference. *Payment is to be made to Lake Tiak O' Khata and not to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.* All prices include tax and gratuity.

The motel group plan for this workshop includes two (2) nights' lodging and five (5) meals. The five meals are Monday (dinner), Tuesday (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and Wednesday (breakfast).

Motel group plan per person is:

- \$146.25 for single occupancy
- \$ 98.15 for double occupancy
- \$ 81.35 for triple occupancy
- \$ 72.95 for quad occupancy

One night's lodging and three (3) meals plan per person cost is:

- \$ 76.75 for single occupancy
- \$ 52.70 for double occupancy
- \$ 44.30 for triple occupancy
- \$ 40.10 for quad occupancy

Reservations

For motel lodging reservations, please call Lake Tiak O'Khata at (662) 773-7853, toll free at (888) 845-6151 or fax at (662) 773-4555. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 160, Smyth Road, Louisville, MS 39339. A block of rooms is being held for this conference until October 30 (two weeks before the first day of the workshop). At that time all rooms on hold will be released. Each room must be individually reserved and guaranteed with a deposit by this date. Cancellation policy is one week prior to arrival date. Please clip and return the registration form below to Matt Buckles, CAPM Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or fax to Matt at (601) 714-7426 or E-mail your registration to Matt at mbuckles@mbcb.org. Remember: Lodging reservations must be with Lake Tiak O'Khata.

Preschool Childcare

Preschool childcare will be provided at First Baptist Church, Louisville, at no additional cost.

Registration Form

Youth Ministers Workshop, November 13-15, 2000
Lake Tiak O'Khata

Name _____ Church Position _____

Spouse's Name (if attending) _____ Number and Age of Preschoolers (if attending) _____

Church Name _____ Association Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Office Phone _____ Home Phone _____ E-mail: _____

☐ I have made lodging reservations at Lake Tiak O'Khata.

☐ I do not need a room, but will plan to eat the following meals there:

☐ Monday dinner ☐ Tuesday breakfast ☐ Tuesday lunch

☐ Tuesday dinner ☐ Wednesday breakfast

☐ I plan to play in the Golf Tournament on Tuesday afternoon (Harvey Ellis - MBCB is the contact)

Please clip and return to Matt Buckles, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

First Baptist Church, Jackson
Fifth Floor Lobby
Monday, October 30, 2000
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

• There is no cost for this conference. But we request that everyone send in the registration form.

• Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis. Please indicate on the registration form your pre-school child care needs (by October 23). If needed, the phone number for FBC, Jackson, is 601-949-1900.

..... Registration Form

Complete the registration form and return to Matt Buckles, Church Administration-
Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or fax to 601-714-7426 or
E-mail this information to mbuckles@mbcb.org.

Name _____ Home Phone No. _____

Church _____ Association _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Husband's Position _____

(If needed) Names and birth dates of pre-school children you will bring _____



Pray this day for...

October 5 - 18, 2000

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DO YOU PRAY?

To be prayerless is to be without God, without Christ, without grace, without hope, and without heaven. It is to be on the road to hell. A habit of prayer is one of the surest marks of a true Christian.

From "A CALL TO PRAYER" By J.C. Ryle

Unwed and/or single mothers in Argentina have concerns and needs that are not generally being met by the local-church ministry. Pray with Journeyman, Julie Hill, that women will be called out to provide help to them.

For (1) Praise Team/Ensemble Festival (CM) (2) Pray for two Bible groups started by a team of summer student volunteers in Czeszochowa, Poland. Pray for salvation and growth for those who attend.

(1) World Hunger Day (CAC) (2) Pray with Donald Deel, dir. of missions for Mountain State Assoc., Princeton, W. Va., for five pastorless churches, two churches that are building and five new works that started this year.

(1) Poverty Awareness Day (CAC) (2) Pray for the spiritual eyes and hearts of the Hausa people of Niger to be open as missionary Michael Loftice continues to share the "stories" of the Scripture in the villages.

For (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet (CAPM) (2) the ministry of the Kediri Baptist Hospital in Kediri, Indonesia. The status of physicians has been questioned. Pray the hospital will be a light to the community.

For (1) Outreach Strategy Tour (SS) (2) Pray for the Lu people in Laos, who are hearing the gospel for the first time through a Thai Christian couple doing business with Lu. Pray the Lord will open their hearts to respond to the message.

For (1) Leader Lab for ministers of education (SS) (2) Missionaries Don and Evelyn Copeland are beginning work among the Ohori people of Nigeria and Benin. Pray new churches will be planted there.

A huge fire destroyed the Ostankino TV tower in Moscow. However, Radio Center, a Christian station, was not affected by the fire and continues to proclaim the gospel to the heart of Russia. Pray for salvation for those who are listening.

Missionaries Dennis and Judi Folds are working with internationalized and overseas Japanese in Tokyo who have become Christians while living overseas. Pray for these facing pressure from their families and friends.

The need for more doctors at Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana, is a continual prayer request. The current doctor on assignment is a Christian, and fervently believes in the goals and mission of BMC.

For (1) MBCB Staff Prayer Retreat; Garawya (2) In recent weeks, Russia has experienced many calamities. Many have been calling out to God to save them from their troubles. Pray God will show His sufficiency for their every need.

For (1) State Church Media Library Conference (DBS) (2) Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf Bible Seminar (SID)

For (1) Student Day at the Baptist Building (CAPM) (2) the Khmu people in Laos where 75,000 people have accepted Christ. Pray that they will grow to maturity and take the gospel to other unreached people groups.

For (1) GA Mother/Daughter Weekend (WMU) (2) six new house churches started in Quayaquil, Ecuador. Pray God will strengthen them and many leaders will be trained to begin other house churches.



PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS CELEBRATION November 10-11, Jackson

Friday, November 10

First Baptist Church, 425 North State Street

Featuring:

- Celebration Banquet - 6:30 p.m.
- Partnership Displays by Participants
- Music/Testimonies
- Mission Impact - Mississippi - Jim Futral
- Partnership Updates - Fieldside Coordinators
- Mission Volunteer Mobilization - Larry Cox

Saturday, November 11

Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street

Featuring:

- Continental Breakfast - 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
- Devotional
- New Mission Opportunities - Panel - Jim Williams, Clay Moss, Larry Cox
- Celebration Conferences by Partnership Groups

The Partnership Missions Celebration is open to anyone interested in missions.

Banquet Cost: \$10. Reservations required by November 6
Call: 601-292-3398 by November 6



Jim Futral



Larry Cox



Jim Williams

RESERVATION FORM

Partnership Missions Celebration, November 10-11, 2000

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ No. of Reservations _____

Please fill out form and mail to: Partnership Missions Department, MBCB
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

In Concert

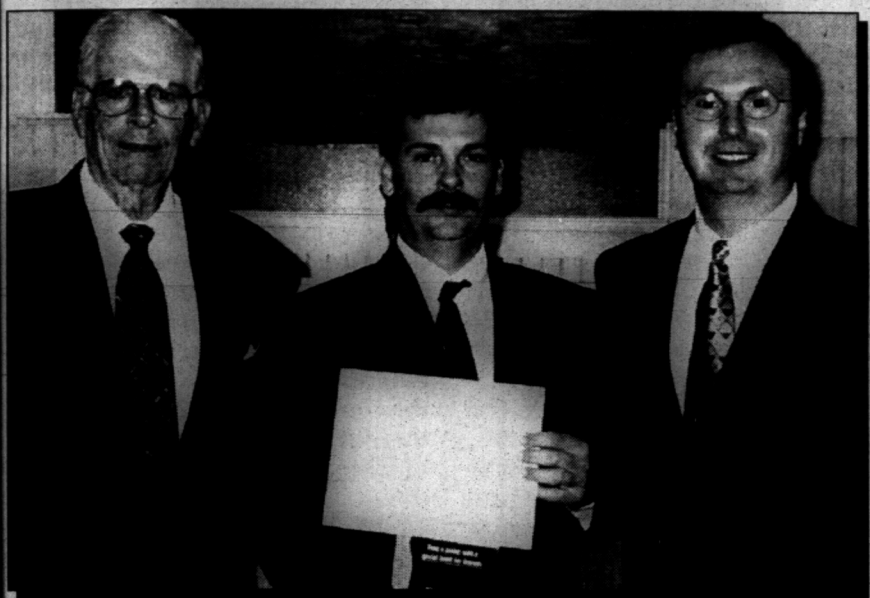


FBC, Greenville

October 5, 2000

6:30 p.m.

John Fletcher was ordained as dacon at Benton Church, Benton, on Sept. 17. Pictured (from left) are Lawrence Martin, deacon chairman; Fletcher; and Garland Boyd, pastor.



Martin, Fletcher, and Boyd



Gates, Blaylock, and Smith

First Church, Calhoun City, ordained Juston Gattes Jr. to the ministry on Aug. 13. Gates serves the church as minister of education and

students. Stan Blaylock was ordained as deacon on Sept. 3. Pictured (from left) are Gates, Blaylock, and Paul Smith, pastor.

Glading (Amite): revival and homecoming services; Oct. 6-8; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. with dinner on the grounds following morning services; Troy Bankston, evangelist; and Bub Newman, music; Charles Kirkfield, pastor.

Midway, Jackson: Oct. 8-11; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Marvin Colie Ferguson, evangelist; Tom Larrimore, music.

Parkway, Houston; Oct. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jackie Kay, Millington, Tenn., evangelist; Randy Wood, Verona, music; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

Bayou View, Gulfport: Oct. 8-11; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Gary Permenter, evangelist; Chris Layton, music; children's revival, "Living 4 Jesus Everyday," and the youth night will be on Wednesday evening.

Brewer, Richton: Oct. 8-14: homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Buddy Keyes, Richton, evangelist; Bill Ricks, Leakesville, music; Ken Ball, pastor.

Cedar Grove (Marion): Oct. 15-18; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, director, Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Charles R. Jones, pastor.

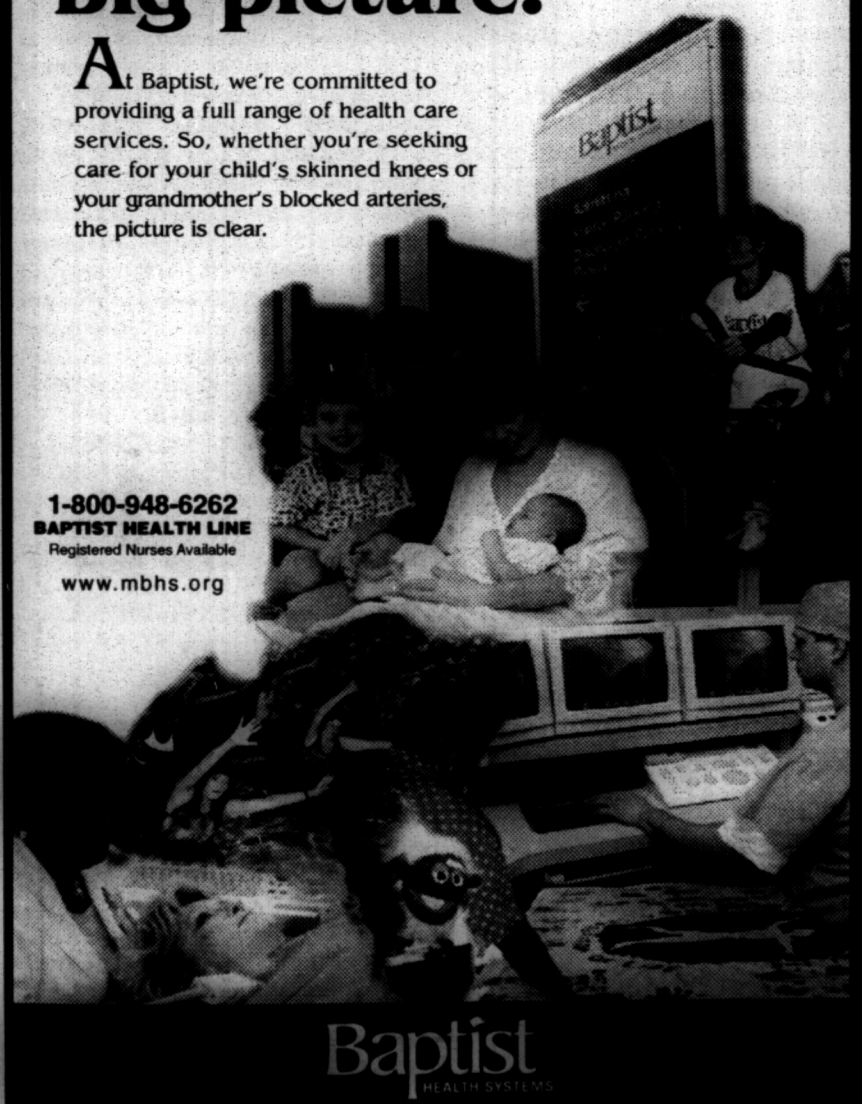
David Shofner, Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; Boyd Tweedy, Petal, music; Leland Smith, pastor.

Center Hill, Hamilton: Oct. 15-18; services, 7 p.m.; Greg Thomas, Houston, evangelist; Charlie Martin, Birmingham, Ala., music; James M. Towery, pastor.

Beulah (Union County): Oct. 14-18; Saturday, fish fry following testimony service at 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Ard, Little Rock, Ark., evangelist; Gerald Waldrop, Pontotoc, music; Ken White, pastor.

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Agri-Missions Fellowship to meet

The annual meeting of the Agricultural-Missions Fellowship (AMF) is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Oct. 30 at First Church, Brandon. The program will include a report on each of the projects that AMF is currently planning or supporting. There will be an election of officers for the new year.

Featured speaker for the meeting will be Carol A. Brown, missionary to Venezuela in the Caribbean

Basin. During a recent Mississippi-Venezuela Partnership, several members of AMF met Brown and worked with her in helping the goat herders of west central Venezuela. Though her assignment is general evangelism, Brown has shown dedication to the use of agricultural skills in reaching her people group.



Brown

Upon her return to Venezuela in April 2001, Brown will work with one of the tribal communities in the Amazon region of the country.

No reservations are necessary to attend the conference, which is a part of the 2000 Lay Missions Conference. For additional information, contact the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 292-3334, or toll-free at (800) 748-1651, ext. 334.

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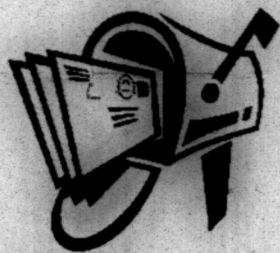
Let's Talk **1-800-331-5876**

TURKEY 2001

ANCIENT ASIA MINOR
MAY 30 - JUNE 11, 2001
Area of Paul
and John

*Archaeological Discovery
Cultural Understanding
Spiritual Inspiration*

Dr. Roger Greene, Host
P.O. Box 1105, Clinton, MS 39060
(601) 924-5403
E-mail: mrgreke@aol.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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NO CONFLICT?

Editor:

What's the problem with evolution? It's an honest question certainly deserving of an honest answer, but while some Christians struggle to see points of conflict between the theory of evolution and the Bible, evolutionists have no such problem.

The very reason for the existence of evolutionary thinking is that it provides non-theistic explanations for the universe. It is not uncommon at all for evolutionists to state plainly that the alternative — special creation — was "unthinkable." This often leads to some very unscientific presumptions.

Concerning the fossil record, Darwin himself stated that transitional forms should be everywhere and that we should find them "every time we stepped out our back door," yet in almost a century and a half of desperate searching scientists have failed to turn up one single solitary example of a transitional form.

While the entire text of Scripture reinforces the creation account found in Genesis, the most overwhelming testimony comes from the very work of Christ which forms the heart of our faith. Christ died to obtain forgiveness for sinful fallen man who has devolved from a state of perfection to a hopeless condition. A condition brought on, according to Paul, by the actions of one man (Rom. 5:12). If there was no Adam, no first sin, no fall, then there is no need for redemption and no need for a Savior. Can anyone really say there is no conflict?

William G. Rainey
Ripley

LESS SUPPORT

Editor:

I am a long-time Baptist and reader of The Baptist Record. I have especially enjoyed the periodical since you have become editor. I never fail to read the editorial page and I nearly always find myself in hearty agreement with your view on many issues.

I read with interest recently, under "Guest Opinion," the article entitled "What's the Problem with Evolution?" What's wrong is that it has so little scientific credibility. From

a purely secular viewpoint, the general theory of evolution as usually taught to students is finding less and less real scientific support. I began the serious study of biological sciences, and subsequently medicine, about 45 years ago. By 1968, at Tulane University after my studies in molecular biology and in measuring time by radioisotope decay, even at that time I realized that the evolutionary theory was completely untenable.

Many scientists are currently reaching the same conclusion, and they are more outspoken than they were 20 and 30 years ago.

Again, let me thank you for what I believe is an excellent job that you are doing. We praise the Lord for all kinds of progress that is being made in every field in the "post modern" world.

Jerry P. Moore
Cleveland

PRESENT THE FACTS

Editor:

As Christians we need to be very concerned with the theory of evolution and that is all that it is — a theory. In fact there is much more evidence to support creation science than the theory of scientific evolution:

- There is no fossil evidence to support evolution. The missing link is simply not there.
- There is no evidence of evolution at the present time, only adaptation.
- There is no evidence in the fossil record to support the claims of evolutionists.

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There are many more; these are just a few. The guest opinion claimed that all species are linked by a "common genetic make-up." As a Christian I do not believe this because of the fact I believe God's Word and it tells me that all things were spoken into being by God. He formed man with his hands and breathed life into him, making man unique and special. Also, if earth is billions of years old as claimed by scientists and dinosaurs were here billions of years before man, then the Bible has lied to us. It plainly states that death entered the world after the sin of Adam and Eve, not a cataclysmic event that wiped out dinosaurs worldwide.

As Christians we should be concerned that the facts are presented to our children, not just what the atheists want our children to know. If they can tear down the most amazing act of God (creation) then they and Satan have our children right where they want them!

LaBrista A. Wadkins
Iuka

FACT OR FIGURATIVE?

Editor:

As a Christian and a scientist, I have found many 'points of conflict' between the theory

of evolution and God's Word which are of vital importance to basic Christian doctrine. The first and most obvious conflict is the role of death. The driving force of evolution is death. For the fit to survive, the weak must die. Death must have existed long before man's entrance onto the scene, but the Bible clearly teaches that death entered the world as a result of and punishment for Adam's sin (Rom. 5:12).

Secondly, the Bible teaches that God finished creating on the sixth day and rest on the seventh. The job was finished, not ongoing and incomplete as a belief in evolution implies. Additionally, the Bible specifically states, "And there was evening and there was morning" in conjunction with days one through six (Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31).

The bottom line is the treatment of Scripture as fact or figurative. Jesus quoted from the first eleven chapters of Genesis more than any other segment of Scripture. To allegorize the creation account is to render the factual application of Jesus' teachings in question. The full context of John 8:31, 32 states "If you abide in my word, then you are truly of Mine; and you will now the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Melissa Hanberry
Hattiesburg

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New Hope, Foxworth: Oct. 8; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish at noon; Varion Stogner, Sumrall, guest speaker; David Grimsley, Vicksburg, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

Mount Zion (Smith): 130th anniversary; Oct. 8; Shellie Ingram and the group Tri Harmony will present special music during the 11 a.m. service and the 1:20 p.m. service following the covered dish luncheon; Keith Thompson, pastor, will deliver the morning message.

Spring Hill, Waterford: Oct. 8; Lee Powell, former pastor, speaker; N-2-Jesus, special music during morning service and 1:30 p.m. music service; dinner on the grounds between services; Larry Dukes, pastor.

McCarley (Carroll): Oct. 8; 10:30 a.m., music and presentation of church and community historical information; 11 a.m., worship, James Dukes, former pastor, speaker; fellowship meal served at noon; Clyde K. Schiele, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah, Enid: Oct. 8; 10 a.m., music, Jim Owens; 11 a.m., worship, Bill Osborn; fellowship dinner at noon; 1:30 p.m., worship and praise; Marty Evans Jr., pastor.

Chunky (Newton): Oct. 15; 35th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in family life building; 1:45 program will feature the Ridgeways and the Rowzees; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

New Goodhope, Pulaski: Oct. 8; service, 10:30 a.m.; Brain Parkman, speaker; Curtis Boland Singers, music; covered dish dinner following services.

Siloam (Clay): Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m. followed by lunch; Jimmy Haggard, guest speaker; Walter Simmons, pastor.

Holly Springs, Foxworth: Oct. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. with former pastor Charles Williams; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing.

Mt. Vernon, West: Oct. 15; singing, 10 a.m. with Earl Bishop Aldridge; worship, 11 a.m. with Wayne Hudson preaching; dinner on the grounds following services.

South McComb, McComb: Oct. 15; 10:30 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at 12:15 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. singing; David Millican, McComb, guest speaker; Tom Moak, Bogue Chitto, music; Ted. C. Bowlin, pastor.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Oct. 15; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. followed by lunch; 1 p.m. singing with Buddy Hampton and Friends; Buddy Hampton, guest speaker; Bob Gilliland, pastor.

Faith, Oxford: Oct. 15; song service, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Harvey Scott, message; dinner on the grounds at noon; 2 p.m., Constitutional service with Don Stanfil, Thomas Atwood, and Jon Meek leading; Gerald H. Walker, pastor.

Editor:

When Hitler killed 6,000,000 Jews before and during World War II, the word used to describe the horror of it was Holocaust.

The Roe v. Wade decision said that unborn babies are not legal persons. The unborn baby is the property of the mother and she can have the child killed at her request.

There have been 37,000,000 unborn babies killed since the Supreme Court decision on Jan. 22, 1973. In particular, partial birth abortion can be performed as late as the ninth month of a pregnancy.

Guided by ultrasound, the abortionist reaches into the womb with forceps and pulls the living baby feet-first out through the birth canal — all except for the baby's head, which is deliberately kept just within the birth canal.

The abortionist then punctures the base of the baby's skull with long scissors or other surgical instrument, inserts a suction tube into the wound, and sucks out the baby's brain. The abortionist then delivers the head of the dead baby.

A person would be arrested for cruelty to animals if he killed a dog in such a manner. Yet, we have been sanitized with the phrase "partial birth abortion" and we need to create a new word to describe the horrible procedure.

Let me suggest the word murder, because if the baby was completely out of the womb, that is exactly what it would be.

One political party opposes this procedure, but the other one sanctions it. Please consider this when you vote in November.

Gary A. Chism
Columbus

Editor:

I am outraged over the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on prayers at ballgames. The court claims that ballgame prayers violate the First Amendment's establishment clause. That's ridiculous. The establishment clause does not set up a wall of separation between church and state. In fact, separation of church and state is not in the First Amendment. The establishment clause means that the federal government cannot make any particular religion the official religion of the U.S.

I do not believe that prayer should be state-sponsored or forced. It should be voluntary. Anyone who does not want to pray should not be forced to do it, but those who want to pray should be allowed to do it. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion in the second clause of the First Amendment.

America was founded on freedom of religion. Until the middle of the 20th century, prayer was permitted, but during the 1960's, a bunch of liberal judges decided that they didn't want God to rule our nation. So they took prayer out of the public schools. Then they removed the Bible and the Ten Commandments. Now they are trying to take prayer out of the ballgames. Where was Congress? Asleep at the wheel. Congress should wake up and take action. Congress should remove these cases from the Supreme Court's jurisdiction and impeach every judge who voted against prayer at the ballgames.

Kevin Waller
Meadville

Editor:

It was disturbing to get the notice from some unnamed

person who works in the insurance services department with the Annuity Board that in January our medical insurance premiums will cost us 22% more next year than it does currently.

The January increase will mean a 36% increase in 12 months which is far more of an increase than with any other provider I have heard of.

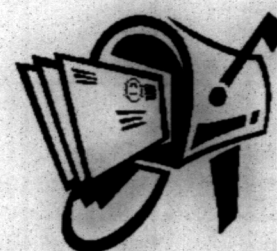
When you combine that with what has recently been done with prescription co-pays (double to tripled) and consider the "rate of pay" penalties when out of necessity a non-network physician is used because a network physician is not available, it leads me to know that anyone with insurance with the Annuity Board has good reason to be concerned.

The Annuity Board is always announcing something "new" but rarely anything favorable when it comes to medical coverage. I think it's time for the Board to invest in the medical program as it does the "new" things.

The "new" always comes with a price tag. We need to know that we are at the heart of the Annuity Board. It is certain that we aren't at KVI and Merck Medco.

Finally, I would like to ask the trustees what they are going to say to those Southern Baptists pastors and staff who in January may have to give up their insurance because it is no longer affordable?

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Being part of a covenant people

Genesis 12:1-3; 22:1-2, 7-16a, 18

By Heather Cumberland

When I married a few years ago, I made several promises to my husband. I promised him that I would be faithful, loving, and supportive. He promised me that he would love me and take care of me emotionally and financially.

Our promises didn't stop with each other, though. We promised to devote our marriage and our lives to God and work constantly at keeping him in the center of our marriage. Through Bible study and prayer we have learned that God's promise to us is that he will guide us and provide for us if we obey him. We made a three-way covenant.

God has made and contin-

ues to make covenants with his people. The covenant on which we are focusing in this lesson is the one between God and Abraham (12:1-3). Abraham was to leave his country, relatives, and his father's house and go where God would lead him.

Abraham's faith in God is truly admirable. God told him to leave. That was the end of the instructions. He did not tell him where to go, how to get there, or what would happen when he got there. He packed his things and took off into the unknown because he trusted that God would lead him step by step.

This is difficult for many of us. We want to know exactly



Cumberland

what God wants us to do before we agree to do it. We lack the faith to trust that God will show us the next step when it is time, but Abraham took God at his word and obeyed him.

In return for Abraham's obedience, God promised to take care of him, make his name great, and bless his future children. Throughout Abraham's journey, however, there were times that his faith in God wavered. He lied about his wife (12:11-13), he second-guessed God (16:1-4), and he lied about his wife again (20:2). He was not a perfect man, yet God still used him and blessed his name.

Although there were times when Abraham struggled with his faithfulness to God, he obeyed God when the hardest test came.

God instructed Abraham to take Isaac, his only son, and offer him as a sacrifice. Think about this command for just a

minute. Put yourself in Abraham's position. If you have children, you might be able to relate to how Abraham must have felt, but even if you don't have children, we all know what it's like to lose something or someone we love.

God was not only telling Abraham that his son would die, but also that he would have to be the one to kill him (22:2). According to the Bible, Abraham did not even question God. In fact, immediately after God gave him the command, verse three tells us that "Abraham rose early in the morning... took two young men and his son Isaac... and went to the place of which God had told him" (New American Standard Version).

I believe that Abraham, although being obedient, must have been praying all the way to the altar that God would change his mind. I doubt he just said, "Okay, let's go."

However, he did as God instructed him. He laid Isaac

on the altar and lifted his hand to slay him. Then he heard an angel of the Lord tell him to stop (22:11-12), he looked over and he saw a ram in the bushes. He took the ram and sacrificed it praising God for his provision.

Each day the Lord presents us with tests of faith. They may not all be as drastic and life challenging as Abraham's, but I believe that they are just as important.

Seek out each day how God may be testing your faith. It may be by allowing you to go through a major trial, or it may be a minor one. He may be testing your faith in him by asking you to walk across the hall or the street to witness to a co-worker or neighbor and trust that God will give you the words to say. Whatever God is doing today to test your faith, know that each "faith test" that you pass makes you a stronger Christian.

Cumberland is advertising coordinator for *The Baptist Record*.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Witnessing to lost people

Acts 8:1-35

By Wayne VanHorn

Today's lesson, "Witnessing to Lost People," is the last of our trilogy on ministering. Just as Peter and John ministered through the healing of the disabled man (3:1-10) and Barnabas ministered by selling personal property to help poor saints in Jerusalem (4:32-37), even so Philip ministered by sharing his convictions about Jesus with people he had not met previously.

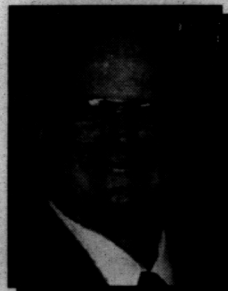
Going to new places (vv. 1-5). Stephen, one of the original seven with "the right stuff," would rather die for Christ than to deny Christ! His heroic stance and death (Acts 6:1-7:60) form the backdrop for today's lesson.

Saul (hereinafter Paul) watched approvingly as Stephen was stoned (7:58; 8:1). Stephen's martyrdom marked the beginning of intense persecution against Christians, result-

ing in a great dispersion of disciples throughout Judea and Samaria (v. 1b). The geographical designations "Judea and Samaria" remind us of Jesus' promise for Spirit empowerment to witness in ever broadening circles (1:8).

In Jerusalem, Paul "began to destroy the church" (NIV, v. 3; KJV "made havoc"). The term "destroy" is the same word in Greek as that used in Psalm 80:13 to refer to a wild boar rooting up and laying waste to a vineyard.

Paul's destructive habits included house-to-house searches and incarceration of men and women who believed in Jesus. Persecution, however, turned out to be the proverbial "blessing in disguise" (Rom. 8:28). Enemies of the church wrongfully assumed that persecution would stamp out the witness of the disciples. Like the "Old Israel" before them, the



VanHorn

"New Israel" carried their belief system with them as they were dispersed throughout the world (8:4).

We are now reintroduced to Philip (v. 5), first mentioned in Acts 6:5 as one of the seven chosen to help feed the widows and not to be confused with the Apostle Philip (Matthew 10:2-4). Luke stayed in Philip's home as he journeyed with Paul and may have gotten the information about this segment of Acts directly from Philip (21:8).

Acts 8:4 reminds us that those who were scattered because of persecution "preached" the Word. "Preached" renders the Greek term from which we get our word evangelize, meaning to share the good news.

In Acts 8:5 Luke informs us that Philip "proclaimed" the Christ. "Proclaim" derives from the Greek term that means to be a herald for a king. The point is that the persecuted church scattered, but as they went, they witnessed to lost people about Jesus the Messiah.

Meeting new people (vv. 26-

28). Philip received instruction from the Lord to leave Samaria and go to the desert road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed. As a result of his obedience, he met a man he had never seen before, the Ethiopian eunuch.

We are told that this man was the treasurer for Candace, queen of Ethiopia (v. 27). "Candace" is a title like Pharaoh or Czar. This man was a gentile (Ethiopian) who had converted to Judaism. Returning from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, he was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8 when Philip approached him.

Just as God used the persecution against the church to strategically reposition his people (v. 1-5), even so he used the obedience of Philip to create a one-on-one, life changing encounter for an otherwise unknown court official from Ethiopia (v. 26-28).

God wants to use us in the same way. We should look for opportunities to witness to people even if we have not known them previously.

Being faithful (vv. 29-31, 34-35). The references to the "angel of the Lord" (v. 26) and to the "Spirit" (v. 29) are two ways to

indicate that Philip's instructions were divine in origin and intent. Philip obeyed the Spirit, approached the chariot of the Ethiopian, and heard him reading the messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53.

Philip initiated conversation about Jesus by asking the eunuch if he understood what he was reading (v. 30). God's intent in directing Philip from the successful mass evangelism in Samaria to an isolated desert road southwest of Jerusalem now became clear.

The eunuch was reading about Messiah, but did not understand what he was reading. "How can I unless someone explains to me?" he replied to Philip (v. 31). The eunuch was seeking to know the truth about God. He turned to the source of truth he could rely on, the Scripture, but he needed help in understanding the message.

God had directed Philip to the desert road in order to guide the eunuch to Jesus (vv. 34-35). Like Philip we need to be sensitive to the leadership of the Spirit to witness to people who need help as they seek God.

VanHorn is pastor of First Church, Columbia.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

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News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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Youth of Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, volunteered their time at the India Nunnery Campus of The Baptist Children's Village in Jackson. They helped paint playground equipment and the campus pavilion. They also led the residents in worship at the weekly chapel service.

Evangelism 'down under' making progress

WINDSOR, Australia (BP) — Kangaroos and koalas, "g'day" and "no worries."

Ask folks where they'd most like to travel, and chances are good they'll include a mention of Australia.

With its rugged landscape and rugged people, red rock outback and Ocker pride, Australia is the dream adventure for millions of city-bound around the world.

Bill Whelan, Aussie to the core, is one of his country's biggest fans. But the spiritual state of Australia, particularly his own Hawkesbury Valley, brings a particular pain to his heart.

Whelan, deacon at Windsor District Baptist Church and backbone of the church's sprawling "Tent City" housing Christian volunteers during the Olympics, desires one thing for Australia: revival.

Whelan can give his own testimony to the life-saving power of Jesus Christ.

"I was a 19-year-old submariner serving in the Royal Australian Navy. Mine was a non-Christian background, like most Australians. Like most extroverted young men, I was desperately lonely," he recalls. "I understood that my relationship with God was totally inadequate."

When the Christian faith

LOVE IN EVERY LANGUAGE — Volunteer Candy Tseung, a member of Sydney's Northside Chinese Alliance Church, witnesses in Sydney's Chinatown during the Olympics. Sydney and other major cities in Australia have become multicultural magnets in recent years—especially for Asian immigrants. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

was first explained to him, Whelan said he had the "comprehension of a teenage boy" — but was willing to listen.

"I decided that if Jesus Christ was fair dinkum [Aussie for trustworthy and genuine], then I would commit my life to him," Whelan says. "And from that small, small seed of faith, I took the first step in becoming a child of God."

"The miracle was that I grew. [Jesus] changed my life by taking away the deep loneliness. It gave me a different reason for living and a fullness of life that is almost beyond comprehension. My best mate is Jesus."

Whelan is not alone. Federal House of Representatives member Kerry Bartlett, who represents the 745,000 people of Macquarie, became a Christian when he was 12 years old.

"Like everyone who loves God, I want to honor God in whatever I do — whether I'm a politician, butcher, baker, or candlestick maker," he says.

"In my job, I represent the people as best as I can and uphold the issues and principles that are consistent with Christian teaching — especially those that support and strengthen the family."

"I believe Australia's great-

est spiritual need is to realize that we're not here by accident. Every man, woman, and child is answerable to our Creator. I pray that there will be a revival in Australia and that people will turn to the Lord."

The majority of Aussies, however, cannot understand Whelan or Bartlett, shrugging off their perspective as "religious stuff."

Some have never even had the gospel explained to them in basic terms. With barely 3 percent of Australia's 18.3 million people identified as evangelical Christians and no major revival in its history, the question is: Why are Australians so slow in responding to Christ?

"The reason stems

from our historical background," Whelan explains.

"We're convicts. My own personal heritage goes back to relatives seven generations ago who came out with the first convict ship fleet [from England] to settle Australia. Because of that, we have never had that depth of spiritual enlightenment."

"It was actually an afterthought for the British to send a minister of religion after that first convict fleet. Consequently, our society has grown as a secular society."

Whelan would like to change that.

Olympics witness reaches kids on Aussie courts

WINDSOR, Australia (BP) — Boyd Hall doesn't fit the stereotype of a missionary whacking through the African bush with a Bible in one hand and a machete in the other.

Hall carries a basketball. An International Mission Board missionary in Capetown, South Africa, Hall is one of the 600-plus volunteers staying at Windsor District Church's "Tent City" Olympic village. He came to Australia as part of the South African Sports Federation, a branch of the Texas-based International Sports Federation.

As a former basketball player and sports coach, Hall spends his days doing a different kind of evangelism — sports evangelism among young people.

"Our goal is to teach them good basketball skills and build relationships with them," Hall said. "We want to get to know them and see what's going on in their lives. Then at the end of the day, we have a devotional. We've been able to present the gospel clearly in several different ways — skits, evangelistic bracelets and other ways."

Dressed in shorts and tennis shoes, he hardly looks like the stereotypical missionary.

"Keep dribbling!" he calls to his young charges, all dribbling furiously, the slap of basketballs on the floor echoing loudly in the gym.

"Time for speed drills — this way! That's good! Keep it up!"

He runs ahead of them, teaching them different basketball techniques and giving individual help. Basketball nets swish as the kids practice lay-ups.

"You're doing fine. You don't have to be a superstar," he says to one small boy as he squats down on his level. "Just do your best and don't be intimidated by the others and what you can and can't do."

And as Hall sits on the side watching other volunteers help the youngsters run drills, he prays they will one day come to know his Savior.

"This is one thing I'm convinced of — you spend a week with the kids, and they realize you really do care about them. And we care about their walk with the Lord. We want them to know that being a Christian is more than just praying a prayer and saying, 'OK, I'm saved,' and that's it."

Besides fun on the court, Hall says sports clinics like these are a great way to introduce people — especially young people — to the Gospel.

"It's amazing how you can meet kids who wouldn't even think about coming to church. They wouldn't come to a holiday Bible club for anything, but you say, 'Hey, let's go play basketball!' and you get kids who show up."

Bibliocipher

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FCL KIPOP PEGL, G FX:

FCL RI PSFBB PII MSI PYC

YE XFC PGMMGCN YC

MSI ZGNSM SFCL YE

DYTIZ, FCL AYXGCN GC

MSI ABYOLP YE SIFWIC.

XFZV EYOZMIIC: PGUMR-

MTY

Clue: R = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen.



R AND R — Christian volunteers at the Olympics relax and recharge at the "Tent City" near Sydney. Seated facing camera from left to right are International Sports Federation volunteers: Nicole Sutton from Nevada, Mo.; Ron Lindsay from Oktaha, Okla.; Judith Drummond from Louisville, Ky.; and Lorene Wilson from Raleigh, N.C. Back to camera: Gregory Haynes from Atlanta. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)